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COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS
Fifty-fifth session
22 March-30 April 1999

PROVISIONAL AGENDA

Note by the Secretary-General

Duration and venue of the session

1. The fifty-fifth session of the Commission on Human Rights will be held at the United Nations Office at Geneva from 22 March to 30 April 1999. The first meeting will be convened at 11 a.m. on Monday, 22 March 1999.

Provisional agenda

2. The provisional agenda, prepared in accordance with rule 5 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council, is reproduced below.

Inter-sessional and pre-sessional working groups

3. The fifty-fifth session of the Commission is preceded by meetings of eight working groups in connection with the following items:

(a) Item 9 (b): The Working Group on Situations, composed of five members of the Commission, is scheduled to meet from 22 to 26 February 1999 to examine situations referred to the Commission by the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities pursuant to Economic and Social Council resolution 1503 (XLVIII) of 27 May 1970 (Commission resolution 1990/55, Economic and Social Council resolution 1990/41);

(b) Item 10: An open-ended working group established to elaborate policy guidelines on structural adjustment programmes and economic, social and cultural rights (Commission decision 1998/102, Economic and Social Council decision 1998/276) is scheduled to meet from 1 to 5 March 1999;

(c) Item 11 (a): An open-ended working group established to elaborate a draft optional protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Commission resolution 1998/34, Economic and Social Council resolution 1998/35) met from 28 September to 9 October 1998;

(d) Item 13: An open-ended working group for the elaboration of a draft optional protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on involvement of children in armed conflicts (Commission resolution 1998/76, Economic and Social Council decision 1998/271) is scheduled to meet from 11 to 22 January 1999;

(e) Item 13: An open-ended working group for the elaboration of a draft optional protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography (Commission resolution 1998/76, Economic and Social Council decision 1998/271) is scheduled to meet from 25 January to 5 February 1999;

(f) Item 14 (a): A working group of intergovernmental experts established to elaborate recommendations to strengthen the promotion, protection and implementation of the human rights of migrants (Commission resolution 1998/16, Economic and Social Council decision 1998/244) is scheduled to meet from 23 to 27 November 1998 and from 8 to 12 February 1999;

(g) Item 15: An open-ended working group established to elaborate a draft United Nations declaration on the rights of indigenous peoples (Commission resolution 1998/14, Economic and Social Council resolution 1998/34) is scheduled to meet from 30 November to 11 December 1998;

(h) Item 15: An open-ended working group established to elaborate and consider further proposals for the possible establishment of a permanent forum for indigenous people in the United Nations system (Commission resolution 1998/20, Economic and Social Council decision 1998/247) is scheduled to meet from 15 to 19 February 1999.

4. Any decisions and resolutions affecting the provisional agenda of the fifty-fifth session of the Commission that may be adopted by the General Assembly at its fifty-third session will be brought to the attention of the Commission in an addendum to the present document. The annotations to the items listed in the provisional agenda will also be issued in an addendum.

Provisional agenda

1. Election of officers

2. Adoption of the agenda

3. Organization of the work of the session

4. Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and follow-up to the World Conference on Human Rights

5. The right of peoples to self-determination and its application to peoples under colonial or alien domination or foreign occupation

6. Racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and all forms of discrimination

7. The right to development

8. Question of the violation of human rights in the occupied Arab territories, including Palestine

9. Question of the violation of human rights and fundamental freedoms in any part of the world, including:

   (a) Question of human rights in Cyprus;

   (b) Procedure established in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1503 (XLVIII)

10. Economic, social and cultural rights

11. Civil and political rights, including the questions of:

   (a) Torture and detention;

   (b) Disappearances and summary executions;

   (c) Freedom of expression;

   (d) Independence of the judiciary, administration of justice, impunity;

   (e) Religious intolerance;

   (f) States of emergency;

   (g) Conscientious objection to military service

12. Integration of the human rights of women and the gender perspective

   (a) Violence against women

13. Rights of the child

14. Specific groups and individuals:

    (a) Migrant workers;

    (b) Minorities;

    (c) Mass exoduses and displaced persons;

    (d) Other vulnerable groups and individuals

15. Indigenous issues

16. Report of the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities:

    (a) Report and draft decisions;

    (b) Election of members

17. Promotion and protection of human rights:

    (a) Status of the International Covenants on Human Rights;

    (b) Human rights defenders;

    (c) Information and education;

    (d) Science and environment

18. Effective functioning of human rights mechanisms:

    (a) Treaty bodies;

    (b) National institutions and regional arrangements;

    (c) Adaptation and strengthening of the United Nations machinery for human rights

19. Advisory services and technical cooperation in the field of human rights

20. Rationalization of the work of the Commission

21. (a) Draft provisional agenda for the fifty-sixth session of the Commission;

    (b) Report to the Economic and Social Council on the fifty-fifth session of the Commission.